

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 HA-05 /095 W
-----090733 030353Z /61

R 020957Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2440
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDTN
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0634

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PINS, PDEV, WA, FI
SUBJECT: SWAPO LEADER'S CONSULTATIONS WITH FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: HELSINKI 0596

1. SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY REVIEWED WITH A DIVISION DIRECTOR OF THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POLITICAL DEPARTMENT THE CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT (REFTEL). THE PURPOSE OF NUJOMA'S VISIT TO THE NORDIC COUNTRIES WAS TO BRING THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS UP-TO-DATE
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ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING NAMIBIA AND TO EXPLAIN SWAPO POSITIONS. JUDGING FROM THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL'S ACCOUNT, THERE APPEARED TO BE LITTLE IN NUJOMA'S PRESENTATION THAT DIFFERS FROM POSITIONS ALREADY KNOWN. THE OFFICIAL SAID THE FINNS CONFINED THEMSELVES TO LISTENING TO NUJOMA'S EXPOSITION AND MADE NO PROPOSALS OR RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE FINNISH MFA OFFICIAL, NUJOMA MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN HIS PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY:
(A) SECURITY. NUJOMA REPEATED HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED

POSITION (WHICH HE DESCRIBED TO FINNS AS A SWAPO CONCESSION) THAT A FORCE OF 1500 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN NAMIBIA, BUT ONLY IN THE SOUTHERN PART. NUJOMA SAID SWAPO IS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO THE STATIONING OF ANY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ELSEWHERE IN NAMIBIA, INCLUDING IN WALVIS BAY.

(B) THE SIZE OF THE UN MILITARY PRESENCE. NUJOMA MENTIONED TO THE FINNS THE FIGURE OF 5000.

(C) WALVIS BAY. NUJOMA SAID SWAPO INSISTS THAT WALVIS BAY IS A PART OF NAMIBIA AND MUST BE INCLUDED IN ANY SETTLEMENT. HE SAID IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT ANY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS REMAIN IN WALVIS BAY OR THAT THERE BE ANY RESIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL.

(D) POLITICAL PRISONERS. NUJOMA CONFIRMED THAT SWAPO WOULD BE WILLING TO RELEASE PRISONERS HELD IN TANZANIA AND DENIED THAT THERE ARE ANY PRISONERS IN ZAMBIA. THE FINNS DID NOT NOTE ANY NUJOMA RESERVATIONS WHEN HE SPOKE OF SWAPO WILLINGNESS TO RELEASE PRISONERS IN TANZANIA.

(E) THE CHARACTER OF THE UN PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA. NUJOMA SAID THAT THE UN PRESENCE SHOULD NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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LIMITED TO MONITORING. THE UN SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE DURING THE ELECTION AND TRANSITION PERIOD, INCLUDING THE DISARMING OF CIVILIAN AND MILITIA GROUPS IN NAMIBIA.

3. DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FINNS, NUJOMA EXPRESSED DEEP DISTRUST OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS, WARNING AGAINST UNILATERAL SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION TO IMPOSE A BANTUSTAN-TYPE SOLUTION. HE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT TO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT SWAPO IS POSSIBLE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE MFA OFFICIAL, NUJOMA DID NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS NOR ON THE EFFORTS OF THE CONTACT GROUP. NUJOMA DID POINT OUT THAT HE HAS LEFT A LARGE NEGOTIATION GROUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATION. HE ACCUSED THE "SO-CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER" OF SOUTH AFRICA OF BREAKING OFF THE TALKS. HE EMPHASIZED IN PRIVATE WHAT HE STATED IN PUBLIC, THAT SWAPO CONSIDERS THAT NEGOTIATIONS TO BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE CONTINUING ARMED STRUGGLE. HE SAID THAT ANY FURTHER CONCESSIONS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST COME FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

5. THE FINNISH OFFICIAL SAID THAT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS FINLAND MADE NO PROPOSALS NOR SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION AND NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT GIVEN TO THE PRESS ON FEBRUARY 23 (QUOTED PARAGRAPH THREE REFTEL) WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AGREE WITH THEIR SWEDISH COUNTERPARTS THAT ON THIS TRIP NUJOMA SEEMED MORE

POISED AND SELF-CONFIDENT THAN DURING PREVIOUS MEETINGS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN00634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780096-1068
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802102/aaaadies.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d76e6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HELSINKI 596
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3433043
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAPO LEADER'S CONSULTATIONS WITH FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY
TAGS: PORG, PINS, PDEV, WA, FI, SWAPO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d76e6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014